

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~processing messages~~ monitoring a device
communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

~~transmitting a message from a network device to a first computer that is remote from~~
~~said network device, said message including information obtained from sensors of the~~
~~network device;~~

~~receiving the message by the first computer;~~

~~determining, by the first computer, if a communication containing at least part of the~~
~~message, including at least some of the information obtained from the sensors, is to be~~
~~transmitted from the first computer to a second computer;~~

obtaining, by a first monitoring computer using a first Internet protocol, first device
information of the device, the first device information including (1) status information
obtained from sensors of the device, and (2) a device identification of the device;

storing, by the first monitoring computer, the obtained first device information;

processing the first device information and stored information of the device monitored
by the first monitoring device to generate second device information that includes the first
device information and the stored information;

~~transmitting the communication~~ the second device information using a second Internet
protocol from the first monitoring computer to [[the]] a second computer in response to the
~~determination made by the first computer; and~~

~~receiving said communication~~ second device information by the second computer,
wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from the device, and the first
monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the first device information from the
device.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~message~~ ~~comprises information regarding usage of the device~~ first Internet protocol and the second Internet protocol are a same Internet protocol.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~message~~ ~~comprises an Internet electronic mail message~~ first Internet protocol and the second Internet protocol are different Internet protocols.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~communication generated by the first computer comprises an electronic mail message~~ transmitting step comprises transmitting the second device information to the second computer periodically regardless of a content of the second device information.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~message~~ first device information comprises an Internet electronic mail message, and the ~~communication~~ ~~generated~~ second device information transmitted by the first monitoring computer comprises an electronic mail message.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
generating, by the first monitoring computer, the ~~communication~~ second device information to include summary information regarding usage of the device,

wherein the step of transmitting the ~~communication~~ second device information from the first monitoring computer comprises transmitting, by the first monitoring computer, the

~~communication~~ second device information that includes the information regarding usage of the device to the second computer.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~network~~ device is ~~a business office device~~ one of a printer, a copier, and a facsimile machine.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the ~~business office device is at least one of a printer, a copier, and a facsimile machine~~ obtaining step comprises obtaining the first device information over a Wide Area Network.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said step of transmitting the message~~ the obtaining step comprises:

~~transmitting said message from the network device to the first computer without going through the second computer~~ obtaining the first device information through an Intranet.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the obtaining step comprises:

~~transmitting a message from the network device to the second computer, said message including said information obtained from the sensors of the network device~~ obtaining the first device information through a Local Area Network.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~processing messages~~ monitoring a device communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

~~means for transmitting a message from a network device to a first computer that is remote from said network device, said message including information obtained from sensors of the network device;~~

~~means for receiving the message by the first computer;~~

~~means for determining, by the first computer, if a communication containing at least part of the message, including at least some of the information obtained from sensors, is to be transmitted from the first computer to a second computer;~~

means for obtaining, by a first monitoring computer using a first Internet protocol, first device information of the device, the first device information including (1) status information obtained from sensors of the device, and (2) a device identification of the device;

means for storing, by the first monitoring computer, the obtained first device information;

means for processing the first device information and stored information of the device monitored by the first monitoring device to generate second device information that includes the first device information and the stored information;

~~means for transmitting the communication~~ the second device information using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to ~~[[the]]~~ a second computer in response to the determination made by the first computer; and

~~means for receiving said communication~~ second device information by the second computer,

wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from the device, and the first monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the first device information from the device.

12-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring ~~at least one network~~ a plurality of devices communicatively coupled to a local network, comprising:

accessing, using a first Internet protocol, the ~~at least one network~~ plurality of devices by a service center computer that is remote from said local network to obtain first device status information of the ~~at least one network~~ plurality of devices, including information obtained from sensors of the plurality of ~~at least one network~~ devices;

storing the obtained first device status information;

periodically processing the ~~stored status~~ first device information and stored information of the plurality of devices monitored by the service center computer to generate a usage report for the ~~at least one network~~ plurality of devices that includes the first device information and the stored information;

transmitting the usage report, using a second Internet protocol, from the service center computer to a second computer; and

receiving the usage report by the second computer.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the usage report from the ~~first~~ service center computer to the second computer as an e-mail message.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the usage report from the ~~first~~ service center computer to the second computer as a facsimile message.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

translating the usage report into a format suitable for display on a web page; and
receiving a request for transmission of the usage report from the second computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring ~~at least one network~~ a plurality of devices communicatively coupled to a local network, comprising:

means for accessing, using a first Internet protocol, the ~~at least one network~~ plurality of devices by a service center computer that is remote from said local network to obtain first device status information of the ~~at least one network~~ plurality of devices, including information obtained from sensors of the ~~at least one network~~ plurality of devices;

means for storing the obtained first device status information;

means for periodically processing the ~~stored status~~ first device information and stored information of the plurality of devices monitored by the service center computer to generate a usage report for the ~~at least one network~~ plurality of devices that includes the first device information and the stored information;

means for transmitting the usage report, using a second Internet protocol, from the service center computer to a second computer; and

means for receiving the usage report by the second computer.

26-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A computer program product having a computer usable medium for monitoring an image handling device communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

instructions for obtaining, by a first monitoring computer using a first Internet protocol, first device information of the image handling device, the first device information including (1) status information obtained from sensors of the image handling device, and (2) a device identification of the image handling device;

instructions for storing, by the first monitoring computer, the obtained device information;

instructions for processing, by the first monitoring computer, the first device information and stored information to generate second device information;

instructions for transmitting the second device information using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer; and

instructions for receiving the second device information by the second computer,

wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from the image handling device, and the first monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the device information from the image handling device.

30. (New) A computer program product having a computer usable medium for monitoring a plurality of image handling devices communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

instructions for obtaining, by a first monitoring computer using a first Internet protocol, first device information of the image handling devices, the first device information including (1) status information obtained from sensors of the image handling devices, and (2) a device identification of the image handling devices;

instructions for storing, by the first monitoring computer, the obtained device information;

instructions for processing, by the first monitoring computer, the first device information and stored information to generate second device information;

instructions for transmitting the second device information using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer; and

instructions for receiving the second device information by the second computer,

wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from the image handling device, and the first monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the device information from the image handling devices.